



SEARCH:

Department of Planning & Development

SEARCH DPD

Shaping and protecting Seattle's built and natural environment

Diane Sugimura, Director

[Home](#) | [Permits](#) | [Planning](#) | [Research](#) | [Enforcement](#) | [Publications](#) | [Codes](#) | [Notices](#) | [News](#)

DCLU News

March 30, 2001

March 30 Update of Earthquake Damaged Buildings in Seattle

As of Friday afternoon, March 30, 512 buildings in Seattle have limited or no access due to damage caused by the Nisqually earthquake of February 28th. The red and yellow-tagged buildings require further assessment by private engineers. The total damage estimate from the inspections has risen to over \$65,000,000. These estimates are based on rapid, visual assessments of structures and elevator systems by DCLU inspectors and are considered preliminary. Private engineers continue to assess many structures; estimates from those reports are not available. Total damage to private structures is understood to be much higher than DCLU's estimates for inspected buildings.

DCLU has fully moved into the recovery phase. The process for reviewing and approving repair permits has been operational for several weeks and repair work is being inspected in the field.

Quick Reference Phone Numbers for Seattle Properties

- To apply for a repair permit within Seattle **206-684-8850**
- To request initial inspection (for major damage only) **206-386-9743**
- To request an inspection of emergency repair work **206-386-9743**
- To discuss the status of a red or yellow-tagged building **206-386-9743**
- For information about Hazard Correction Orders **206-386-9743**
- To contact FEMA for assistance **1-800-462-9029** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)**.

Inspection & Damage: Facts-at-a-Glance

- # of buildings tagged by DCLU and estimated damage:
- **29 Red: \$9,200,000** ([addresses in next column](#))
- **483 Yellow: \$37,900,000**

Related Information

[DCLU Earthquake Information Center](#)
[General City Earthquake Information](#)

Reaching DCLU Staff

DCLU staff has moved to Key Tower; all phone numbers are operational. For permit applications, visit the Applicant Services Center (ASC) on the 20th floor Key Tower, 700 5th Avenue (206-6874-8850). The Public Resource Center, which provides general information and permit and plan history, is also on the 20th floor of Key Tower (206-684-8467).

Red Tagged Buildings

Total: 29

Est. Damage: \$9,200,000

540 1ST AV S
 548 1ST AV S
 550 1ST AV S
 1000 1ST AV S
 1008 1ST AV S
 1014 1ST AV S
 1700 1ST AV S
 1955 1ST AV S
 2918 1ST AV S
 2920 1ST AV S
 3207 1ST AV S
 319-21 2ND AV S
 325 2ND AV S
 1418 2ND AV S
 309 3RD AV S

- **1016 Green: \$16,700,000**
- **74 Elevator systems: \$1,700,000**
- **29 OK, no green tag posted**

- Estimated damage total so far : **\$65,500,000**

- # of bldgs.inspected with reports recorded: **1557**

Red, Yellow and Green Tags on Buildings

DCLU posts red, yellow and green placards on buildings after it conducts inspections. A red placard means the structure is unsafe and is illegal to enter. It then becomes the owner's responsibility to comply with the posting and prevent building entry. A yellow placard means there is damage, and usually restricts the use of the building. A green card indicates that although the building may have suffered damage, it is safe to occupy.

Building Owners' Responsibility for Red and Yellow Tagged Buildings

To change the status of a red-tagged building, an engineer's report will be required, along with any mitigation required by the engineer. For yellow-tagged buildings the requirement will vary, depending on the severity of damage. The report needs to be sent to DCLU for review and approval at which time a DCLU inspector will re-tag the site appropriately. **To learn more about the requirements for a specific tagged building, call DCLU (206) 386-9743.**

Getting Repair Permits for Damaged Buildings

DCLU has established an expedited permit process to facilitate repairs. This is done to ensure that the public experiences the least possible inconvenience in getting necessary repair work underway. In addition, an expedited approval process has been established for buildings in Historic Preservation Districts and for Landmark buildings. **To learn more on how to apply for a repair permit, contact a DCLU Permit Specialist at 206-684-8850.**

For information about repairing historic buildings and chimneys, see: "Special Requirements for Landmark Buildings and Buildings in Historic and Special Review" and "Repairing Unreinforced Masonry Chimneys" on our website: www.cityofseattle.net/DCLU/quake

As a note of caution, when other cities such as Oakland or Los Angeles have experienced a major disaster, non-licensed or qualified contractors have taken advantage of some homeowners. Always verify that the contractor who does the work for you is licensed by the State of Washington. You can confirm this through the Washington State Labor and Industries website at www.lni.wa.gov/contractors/contractor.asp.

To report Damage to your Building

315 3RD AV S
5401 22ND AV NW
2410 37TH AV SW
2010 AIRPORT WY S
212 ALASKAN WY
306-20 ALASKAN WY
1614 S ATLANTIC ST
589 OCCIDENTAL AV S
77 S WASHINGTON ST
165 S. WASHINGTON
173 S. WASHINGTON ST
664-76 S WELLER ST
809 WESTERN AV
5900 WEST GREENLAKE WY W

If significant damage has occurred to your building or home, and it has not yet been reported to the City of Seattle, call DCLU at (206) 386-9743. Be sure to provide your name, phone number, address, and a brief description of damage. DCLU will provide an inspection on request to buildings that show visible signs of significant damage. If you feel your building is unsafe, vacate the premises, call DCLU for an inspection, or contact a structural engineer (listed in the yellow pages of the phone book).

It is important to note that DCLU inspectors are only looking for visible damage and will not be able to assist in any evaluation of a building beyond a visible inspection. It is possible for an earthquake to cause damage that is not visible.

The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is located in Seattle Municipal Tower (formerly Key Tower) at 700 Fifth Avenue in downtown Seattle ([details](#)).

Mailing Address: DPD, 700 5th Ave Suite 2000, P.O. Box 34019, Seattle, WA 98124-4019

NOTE: New [Mailing Addresses](#) for Downtown City of Seattle Offices

[DPD Home](#) | [About DPD](#) | [Contact DPD](#) | [DPD Search](#)

Copyright © 1995-2004 City of Seattle

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Living](#) [Business](#) [Visiting](#) [Mayor](#) [Council](#) [Police](#) [Fire](#) [Jobs](#) [Seattle Channel](#)
[News](#) [Events](#) [Traffic](#) [Maps](#) [Weather](#) [City Directory](#) [About](#) [Feedback](#) [Privacy Policy](#)